



HORACE MANN SCHOOL

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HEAD OF SCHOOL

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June 24, 2012

Dear Alumni/ae,

It is with great sadness that I write to you for the second time this month about another disturbing report of events from our School's distant past. In today's edition of the *New York Times*, a former Horace Mann School teacher who retired in June of 1986, Tek Young Lin, admitted to having had sexual relations with students decades ago. While his admission of guilt included an apology and rationale for his decisions, his apology is unacceptable and the behavior described inexcusable. At no time is it appropriate for a teacher, working with minors and in a position of undeniable authority and trust, to engage in a sexual relationship with a student. As shared by Stephen Brookfield in his 1990 book, *The Skillful Teacher*:

Trust between teachers and students is the affective glue that binds educational relationships together. Not trusting teachers has several consequences for students. They are unwilling to submit themselves to the perilous uncertainties of new learning. They avoid risk. They keep their most deeply felt concerns private. They view with cynical reserve the exhortations and instructions of teachers.

Mr. Lin's admission does nothing to lessen the frustration, concern, and sheer outrage described by many within our community.


The Board of Trustees has now met and will continue to meet as the governing body of Horace Mann School to consider information and input from the Administration, those reporting to have been hurt at the hands of retired or deceased teachers, the alumni, outside experts and the School's advisers. In addition, Horace Mann School continues to cooperate with local law enforcement.

With an emphasis on hearing and understanding the needs of those with the greatest concerns, the Board of Trustees will continue its deliberations and communicate at such time when a plan of action can be shared with the community at large. While I understand this is not what some in the community want to hear at this juncture, the School is not going to rush those decisions and actions that are proving to be among the most important ever to face our community of learners and leaders.

Moving forward, it is important to remind everyone that the School will communicate with members of its community directly and not through the media. When information needs to be shared or input is sought, I assure you members of our community will and should hear from the School.

To those members of our alumni community who have reported being hurt by events in the School's past, know that we are thinking about you.

Sincerely yours,


Thomas M. Kelly, Ph.D.
Head of School

cc: Horace Mann School Board of Trustees, Employees and Families